NOTE XVII.

ONCE MORE THE GENERIC NAME PASSERINA VIEILLOT

BY

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The note on the generic name of the Snow-bunting by Dr. E. Hartert in this part of our periodical gives me cause to revert to the subject of my note on the generic name *Passerina* Vieillot and to state here, that I stand to what I have said about the rejection of this name in Zoology (Notes Leyden Mus. XXXII, n°. 1, p. 32). Dr. Hartert says, that all modern codes of nomenclature in Zoology have agreed not to consider botanical nomenclature. This may be so, but I ask here, are Zoologists and especially Ornithologists agreeing in nomenclature? The answer is in the negative. When studying papers on systematic Ornithology by different authors we learn that they agree but very little in naming the forms. Each author seems to have his own views and seems to follow different rules. There is no agreement at all, even not with authors, which follow the same code. So it will remain, I am sure, always. This is indeed a proof, that many author cannot agree with every rule of nomenclature fixed by the different committees. I do not wonder at it, as there are rules, which are not acceptable, f. i. the rule, that botanical nomenclature should not be considered in Zoology. The practice of this rule can cause confusion and therefore it is certainly better to consider botanical nomenclature in Zoology. Moreover, where is the line between Zoology and Botany?

As to the type of the genus *Passerina* Vieillot, I differ with the view of Dr. Hartert, which is in my opinion wrong. In 1816 Vieillot created his genus *Passerina*, in which he included three species: "Ministre — Ortolan de riz, — de neige, Buff." In 1822 Dr. B. Meyer united *Fringilla calcarata* Pallas and *Emberiza nivalis* L. in the genus *Plectrophanes*, which he had created in 1815 for the first-named species. As these two species are indeed very nearly allied and as the three species which Vieillot included in his genus *Passerina* are on the contrary very different forms, it is not to be denied, that the place given by Meyer to the Snow-bunting is much better and much more natural than that given by Vieillot to this form and therefore in 1822 the "Ortolan de neige" = *Emberiza nivalis* L. has been eliminated out of the genus *Passerina* Vieillot. In 1827 Swainson created the generic name *Dolichonyx* for the second species of Vieillot's *Passerina* and so we have in that year still only the first species of the three originally mentioned by Vieillot, which is now clearly the type of this genus. In 1858 Baird created the generic name *Cyanospiza*, which was merely a synonym of *Passerina* Vieillot, but as we may not employ the latter name in Zoology, being preoccupied in Botany, Baird's *Cyanospiza* becomes the generic name of the "Ministre".

As to the generic name of the Snow-bunting, it is my opinion, that Dr. Stejneger in 1882 did good work in creating a new genus, *Plectrophenax*. By our modern views of generic separation *Fringilla calcarata* Pallas and *Emberiza nivalis* L. cannot be placed in the same genus. As pointed out by Dr. Stejneger *Plectrophanes* Meyer 1815 is a synonym of *Calcarius* Bechstein 1803, both having *Fringilla calcarata* Pallas for type. The generic name of this latter species, named by Linnaeus *Fringilla lapponica*, is therefore *Calcarius* and as there is no generic name, which can be applied to *Emberiza nivalis* L., except that of Dr. Stejneger, we have to call the Snow-bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis* (L.).

Leyden Museum, March 1910.